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UNCLAS KUWAIT 005257

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR SA/FO - AMBASSADOR D. JOHNSON  
STATE ALSO FOR NEA  
STATE ALSO PASS USAID  
KABUL FOR AMBASSDOR TAYLOR  
TREASURY FOR UNDER SECRETARY TAYLOR AND OASIA  
MANILA FOR ADB

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EAID](#) [PREL](#) [ECON](#) [KU](#) [AF](#)

SUBJECT: AFGHAN ASSISTANCE: KUWAIT PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE  
IN ROAD PROJECT

REF: KUWAIT 5018

1.(U) SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED -- PROTECT ACCORDINGLY.

2.(SBU) On December 2, post received a copy of a fax message addressed to Ashraf Ghani, the Afghan Finance Minister, from Hisham Al-Waqayan, Deputy Director General for Operations and Disbursement at the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED). The letter was a response to Ghani's letter of November 17 urging Kuwait to consider funding the Kandahar-Spin Boldak road project to fulfill the country's commitment for project finance assistance. A copy of the letter was apparently also sent to the Asian Development Bank headquarters in Manila.

3.(SBU) The letter conveys to Ghani KFAED's "willingness, in principle, to consider contributing towards co-financing the above mentioned project." The letter goes on to request Ghani to "instruct the concerned authorities to despatch all available economic, financial and technical feasibility studies relating to the said project as soon as possible."

4.(SBU) Comment: It appears that the visit of Ambassadors Taylor and Johnson (reftel) seems to have successfully walked Kuwait back from its plan to donate two used 747's to Afghanistan and shifted the government's focus onto the ring road project. We are also pleased to have been able to facilitate communications between the Afghan and Kuwaiti governments, and are prepared to carry on that role as long as necessary. End comment.  
RJONES